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Application No. 08/991,855 Group Art Unit: 2724

Examiner: Poon, K

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply the message.

7 (THREE TIMES AMENDED) an electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message transmitted from the client apparatus, said client apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message;

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message; and

communication control means for transmitting the selection to the server apparatus.

9. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages electronic messages transmitted from the client apparatus, comprising:

said server apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic messages;

communication control means for transmitting said data for a reply to the client apparatus; said client apparatus comprising:

receiving control means for receiving said data for a reply sent from the server apparatus, said data for a reply independent of the electronic messages;

output means for outputting the message with the received data for a reply to the message; centrol means for accepting only the selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message; and

transmission control means for controlling the transmission for transmitting the selected reply to the server apparatus.

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13. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message transmitted from the client apparatus,

said server apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a first fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message and independent from the electronic message;

communication control means for transmitting the data for the first fixed form reply to tile client apparatus,

said client apparatus comprising:

receiving control means for receiving the first data for the first fixed form reply sent from the server apparatus;

storage means for storing data for second fixed form reply, stored separately from the message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for the first or second fixed form reply;

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for the first fixed form reply based on the category of the message as the reply to the message; and means for controlling the transmission for transmitting the selected reply out of the

data for the first or second fixed form reply to the server apparatus.

17. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A recording medium readable by a computer which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message; comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to store data for a fixed form reply in said computer, the fixed form reply being stored separately from the electronic message;

program code means for causing said computer to output the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message; and

program code means for causing said computer to accept only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to said message.

21. (TWICE AMENDED) A message system comprising:

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a reply data storage device storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form replyset containing a plurality of replies;

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a controller receiving a message from a host and allowing a user to select a reply from a fixed form reply set stored in the reply data storage device, the fixed form reply set independent of the message;

an output device outputting the selected reply to the host,

wherein the fixed form reply sets are stored separately from the message

25. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program instructing a computer to perform:

storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of replies;

storing a message separately from the fixed form reply sets;

receiving the message from a host;

selecting a fixed form reply set independent of the message;

allowing a user to choose a reply from the selected fixed form reply set;

sending the chosen reply to the host; and

computing the frequency of chosen replies sent to the host.

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